

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-02
PM-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 PA-01 /076 W
-----042967 161421Z /47

O 161343Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7638
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, ICRC, ZA, RH
SUBJECT: RED CROSS APPEAL FOR TENTS FOR ZAMBIA

REF: GENEVA 2293

1. EMBOFFS SPOKE FEBRUARY 16 WITH ICRC REGIONAL DELEGATE STEINEMANN REGARDING REQUEST FOR TENTS FOR REFUGEES TO BE MOVED FROM BOTSWANA TO ZAMBIA (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO STEINEMANN, THE 3000 REFUGEES IN QUESTION WILL BE MOVED TO ZAMBIA BEGINNING NEXT WEEK. A SWAZI AIRCRAFT HAS ALREADY BEEN CHARTERED AND AN ADDITIONAL PLANE IS SCHEDULED TO BE BROUGHT IN FROM EUROPE TO AID IN THE TRANSFER. THE REFUGEES WILL BE SETTLED IN EXISTING CAMPS LOCATED NEAR LUSAKA.

2. ALL THE REFUGEES TO BE MOVED TO ZAMBIA WILL BE CHILDREN AND WOMEN WITH INFANTS. STEINEMANN SAID THE REFUGEES ARE AFFILIATED WITH ZAPU AND WILL BE PLACED IN THE TWO CAMP/SCHOOL SITES ZAPU HAS ESTABLISHED FOR BOYS AND

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GIRLS AND WHICH ARE OPEN TO INSPECTION BY ICRC AND UNHCR. HE EMPHASIZED THAT NONE WILL BE SENT TO TRAINING CAMPS. THE TWO SITES HAVE SUFFICIENT ROOM TO ACCOMMODATE THE 3000 NEW REFUGEES, BUT HOUSING IS COMPLETELY LACKING. THE CAMPS CURRENTLY HAVE POPULATIONS OF APPROXIMATELY 3400 GIRLS AND 3000 BOYS, MANY OF WHOM NOW ARE LIVING ONLY IN TENTS. STEINEMANN

RECENTLY VISITED BOTH CAMPS AND SAID THEY ARE FAIRLY WELL
RUN, BUT HE REITERATED THE URGENCY OF THE NEED FOR SHELTER
AS THE RAINY SEASON CONTINUES.

3. COMMENT: SINCE IT APPEARS THAT TENTS WOULD BE USED
STRICTLY FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES AND SUCH USE COULD
BE VERIFIED, AND AN URGENT NEED EXISTS, EMBASSY WOULD
RECOMMEND FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO REQUEST. IN SPITE OF THE
FACT THAT THESE ARE LEGITIMATE REFUGEES, FOR OBVIOUS
REASONS WE WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST TENTS WITH US ARMY
MARKINGS.

LOW

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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